

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**AGENDA**

**JANUARY 12, 2004**

**7:00 PM**

**\*\*MONDAY\*\***

**CITY OF MILPITAS**

**455 E. CALAVERAS BLVD CITY HALL**

**MILPITAS, CA 95035**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Announcements**

**IV. Approval of the Agenda**

**V. Approval of the Minutes: DECEMBER 15, 2003**

**VI. Citizen's Forum**

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Members of the audience are invited to address the Commission on any subject not on the agenda. Speakers must supply their name and address for the record. Commission members cannot respond to issues brought forward, but may request the item be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

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**Continued-New Business**

1. Selection of 2004 Telecommunications Commission Chair and Vice Chair
2. Monthly update on the status of the COMCAST CABLE FRANCHISE.

**Adjournment of Meeting**

**NEXT SCHEDULED TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2004**

**MILPITAS CITY HALL**

**City of Milpitas  
Unapproved Minutes  
Telecommunications Commission  
December 15, 2003**

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**I. Call to Order & Roll Call:**

Chair Alcorn called the meeting to order.

Members Present:, A. Alcorn, I. Munir, R. Gopalara N. Gupta, W. Lam, P. Peterson, , A. Ettinger,

I.S. Staff: B. Marion, E. Pasion

City Council: A. Gomez

Members Absent, G. Ali-Santosa, V. Mathur, D. Gupta, P. Gupta

**II. Pledge of Allegiance:**

The Commission recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Announcements:**

Staff reported that the Commission would need to reschedule its January 26, 2004 meeting to accommodate for the City's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Staff would research and recommend a date for a revised meeting time and location.

Vice Chair N. Gupta reported that Commissioner Mathur was back in India attending the passing of his mother and requested if the Commission would send a letter of condolence.

**IV. Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

141/5 N. Gupta/R. Gopalara Ayes: 7

**V. Approval of the Minutes  
November 17, 2003**

Commissioner Gopalara noted that he was not present at the November meeting but was noted as making seconds to the minutes.

Motion to approved the minutes as corrected.

N. Gupta/R. Gopalara Ayes: 7

**VI. Citizen's Forum**

No comments made for the record.

**VII. Continued-New Business:**

**Cable Franchise Updates**

Milpitas Information Services Director Bill Marion provided a summary of current activities involving the cable television franchise with Comcast cable.

Mr. Marion reported to the Commission the following items. Staff started meetings with Comcast to review and provide comments on the draft franchise documents submitted to them.

Additionally, staff was seeking response on the franchise fee audit resulting in outstanding information and questions as part of the negotiations.

Staff has also reviewed recent Comcast franchises that have been concluded in Lompoc and Santa Maria, California, and found similar outstanding issues and audits relative to the Milpitas cable franchise, I-nets, electrical grounding and franchise audits.

During the first meeting with Comcast the City Manager noted that it would like to have the review and negotiations resolved on time.

The PEG access is adding to the overall review of the franchise. At issue is whether Comcast would recoup its grant through monthly pass-throughs to Milpitas cable subscribers per FCC laws and guidelines. Staff is planning to have this completed by April 2004.

For the Commission, the next phase would be to formulate a public access plan and fund the community access studio in Milpitas. However, staff is waiting to see what the review of the document review from Comcast may yield for further discussion.

Vice Chair N. Gupta asked of controlling cable rates. Staff noted that the City can only control the base rate plan out of all the rates and services offered by Comcast per FCC laws.

Commissioner Gopalaraa asked of current needs from Comcast. Staff noted that it is waiting for Comcast to respond to the list of items including the I-net connections to the City's teen center, senior center, cable television connection to outstanding buildings, provide continued support to City Council and Planning Commission meetings.

Chair Alcorn asked of trading for outstanding issues. Staff has that as part of the consideration of the cable franchise.

Commissioner Gopalaraa added regarding unsightly cable boxes. Staff added that in the document that Comcast would have 12 - 24 months to correct outstanding cable matters.

Commissioner Peterson asked of the outreach to cable customers in reporting service outages. Staff noted that Comcast has yet to provide a current report. However, staff is hearing otherwise have been providing Comcast's customer service telephone number.

Commissioner Lam asked of Comcast broadband service being regulated. Staff reiterated that per FCC ruling, cable broadband is not considered part of the franchise review and not applicable for regulation.

Commissioner Gopalaraa asked of expanded multi-cultural programming. Staff noted that Comcast does offer multi-

cultural programming on its digital cable package for an additional fee.

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S N. Gupta/R. Gopalara

Ayes: 7

## 2. November '03 Monthly I.S. Report

Milpitas Information Services Director Bill Marion provided a summary of activities during the month of November in the Information Services department.

Accomplishments included the acquisition of assistive hearing devices for the first floor Commission Conference room; upgrading the internet connection speeds to a three megabyte asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) connection for improved video conferencing abilities to the City's legal consultants in Oakland; conducting fee-based G.I.S. instruction classes on GEOMedia software to other government agencies; contracting services for G.I.S. to Contra Costa County and other public agencies needing help starting a G.I.S. mapping program.

Mr. Marion highlighted the test of 802.11b Wi-Fi equipment with the Milpitas Police department's mobile computing network. Staff tested six Wi-Fi antennas networked wirelessly attached to city street lamps. A total of 13 wireless antennas will be deployed as part of the network test.

The test demonstrated the ability of wireless network connections through a specific area around the Milpitas Police Department and adjoining residential areas. The test offered the ability to connect to the city's network and various external data for police officers in the field to obtain information during vehicle stops and driver's background checks. Wi-Fi tests are on going and upgraded antennas and software are being redeployed throughout parts of the City. The test also included the use of wireless PDA's connecting to the network for police officers to access data in the field.

Staff noted that coverage was based on line-of-site or "wave guiding" along city streets. Through the use of existing software to Wi-Fi, SLETS the connection was rather seamless and provided good working examples for coverage.

Commissioner Ettinger asked of the product origination. Staff noted that Tropos is based in San Mateo, California. A new group of antennas are being redeployed for the Milpitas test with upgraded software and weatherized construction. The devices are powered through the existing city street lamp power connections.

Chair Alcorn asked of citywide coverage. Staff noted that it would need 100 Wi-Fi devices to coverage the Milpitas area. Each unit provides a ¼ mile of coverage line-of-site and is prone to network disruption due to trees and high-rise buildings.

Commissioner Munir asked of public Wi-Fi access. Staff noted that one private company did seek interest in setting up wireless a network in Milpitas but no new talks have developed in such a service being offered. At this time, the public safety component will be the primary focus of the test.

Commissioner Gopalaraa of the changes in the technology to the wireless test. Staff noted that is was focusing on the 802.11b for it flexibility to adapt various needs to the public safety connectivity component.

Commissioner Lam asked of device failure. Staff noted that the vendor provided network management software to locate defective locations.

Staff would be providing future updates to the product in the future as more tests are made on the wireless network project.

Chair Alcorn asked of the Alternate EOC operations at the main fire station training session. Staff reported that the first test of the alternate EOC was used as part of a countywide simulation exercise.

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S N. Gupta / A. Ettinger

Ayes: 7

### 3. Round Table Discussion.

Commissioner Gopalaraa asked of current wireless connectivity services to the City's buildings. Staff noted that there are wireless bride for voice and data to the City's sports center complex from City Hall and has been in operation for several months. The cost of the equipment will pay for itself in two years much better n the long run than leasing T-1 data lines on a monthly basis.

Chair Alcorn added that he would like to invite other members of the Commission to consider taking on the role of Chair for 2004 if there is any interest from the members.

## VIII. Adjournment of Meeting

The Commission adjourned to its next meeting to a meeting in January 2004.

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